

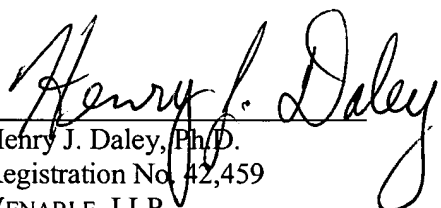
REMARKS

The first paragraph of the specification is amended to cross-reference the parent applications.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested. The examiner is encouraged to contact applicant's representative at the below-noted number if it may help expedite the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 1, 2007


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DC2/DOCS1/824817